2. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the repertoire of polypeptides is first contacted with the target ligand and then with the generic ligand.

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the generic ligand binds a subset of the repertoire of polypeptides.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3 wherein two or more subsets are selected from the repertoire of polypeptides.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein the selection is performed with two or more generic ligands.

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6. (Amended) The method according to claims 4 or 5 wherein the two or more subsets are combined after selection to produce a further repertoire of polypeptides.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein two or more repertoires of polypeptides are contacted with generic ligands and the subsets of polypeptides thereby obtained are then combined.

8. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the polypeptides of the repertoire are of the immunoglobulin superfamily.

9. (Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the polypeptides are antibody or T-cell receptor polypeptides.

10. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the polypeptides are V_H or V_β domains.

11. (Amended) The method according to claim 9, wherein the polypeptides are V_L or V_α domains.

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13. (Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the generic ligand is selected from the group consisting of a matrix of metallic ions, an organic compound, a protein, a peptide, a monoclonal antibody, a polyclonal antibody population, and a superantigen.